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Reports from Kobe—Inspection of vessels—Modifications of quarantine restrictions—Increase of smallpox epidemic.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransom reports, January 2 and 7:

Week ended December 28. Three supplemental bills of health granted to 3 steamships. There were inspected 3 vessels, 159 members of crews, 7 cabin and 64 steerage passengers; 34 members of crews and 64 steerage passengers were bathed, and their effects were disinfected by steam. There were disinfected by steam 326 pieces of personal effects; vaccinated and held five days, 69 steerage passengers; vaccinated 2 cabin passengers and 39 crew at their own request.

For the steamship *Amiral Fourichon* for Honolulu 69 emigrants were passed and 79 recommended for rejection.

In view of the disappearance of cholera from this port the special restrictions imposed upon vessels, cargo, and personnel on account of the infection of Kobe with that disease were removed January 1. All restrictions are continued in force so far as Osaka is concerned, owing to the existence of plague in that city. Such restrictions as are indicated by the quarantine regulations on account of the epidemic of smallpox in Kobe are maintained with regard to vessels, personnel, and cargo.

The official statistics of communicable diseases in Kobe during the period for which this report is made show 236 cases of smallpox and 47 deaths. The smallpox epidemic continues to increase, there having been 34 more cases last week than during the week previous. The largest number of new cases reported on any one day was 44 on December 23, and the smallest number 24 on December 28. The daily average of new cases was about 34.

The efforts of the local authorities to stamp out the disease have in no way been relaxed, but seem to have been unavailing up to the present. The epidemic began on November 5 with 2 cases, since which time it has steadily increased. Up to and including December 29 there have been reported 722 cases and 133 deaths. It is reported that 60 new cases were reported today.

Week ended January 4. Three supplemental bills of health granted to 3 steamships, with a total personnel of 770. There were inspected 3 vessels, 425 members of crews, and 299 steerage passengers; and 206 steerage passengers were bathed, held five days prior to embarkation, and their effects disinfected by steam. Certificates of vaccination were issued to 207 persons. Manifests were viséed for 38,056 pieces of freight.

Emigrants were examined as follows: Steamship *Mongolia* for Honolulu, passed 121, recommended for rejection 99; steamship *Iyo Maru* for Seattle, passed 28, recommended for rejection 28.

The weekly report of communicable diseases in Kobe shows 265 cases of smallpox and 91 deaths. This disease is steadily on the increase. The average for the week has been 38 new cases per day.

Plague at Osaka is on the decrease. Kobe remains free from infection with this disease.